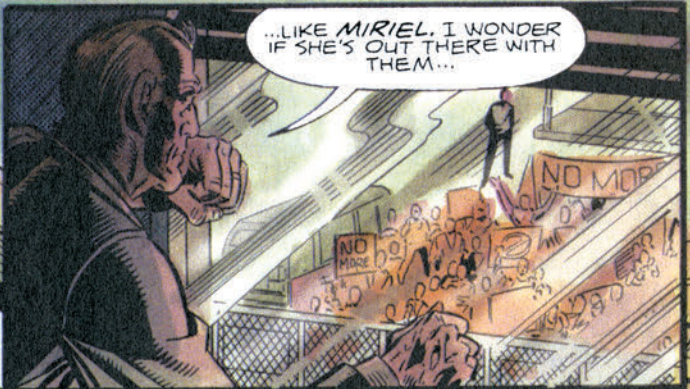




"SO DEDICATED..."

"...SO VEHEMENT..."

"...SO NAIVE..."



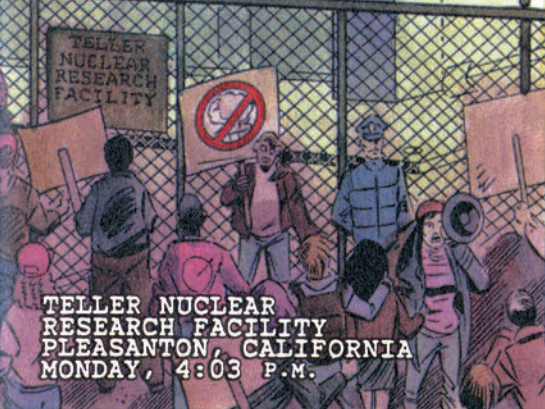
...LIKE MIRIEL, I WONDER IF SHE'S OUT THERE WITH THEM...

NO MATTER, MY WORK CAN PROCEED WITHOUT HER.

BEAR DOOLEY WILL DO A FINE JOB AS THE NEW DEPUTY PROJECT DIRECTOR.



BRIGHT ANVIL IS TOO IMPORTANT TO LET IT GET MUDDLED IN POLITICS AND QUESTIONS...



TELLER NUCLEAR RESEARCH FACILITY  
PLEASANTON, CALIFORNIA  
MONDAY, 4:03 P.M.



EVEN I DON'T UNDERSTAND IT... BUT SOMEHOW THE PROCESS WORKS.

MIRIEL JUST LET TOO MANY QUESTIONS GET TO HER...

AFTERNOON MAIL, DOCTOR GREGORY. A PACKAGE FOR YOU--SPECIAL DELIVERY.

THANKS, PATTY... BUT I'M NOT EXPECTING ANYTHING.

WHAT IS THIS? NO RETURN ADDRESS.

OOO...

EMIL GREGORY  
1/6 TELLER NUCLEAR  
RESEARCH FACILITY  
PLEASANTON, CA  
93066

NO LETTER, JUST... HMMMM...

IT'S FILLED WITH A POWDERY SUBSTANCE... LIKE ASH. **BLACK ASH.**

I WONDER IF THIS COULD BE SOME KIND OF PRANK... FROM THOSE PEOPLE.

DOCTOR GREGORY, IF IT'S ALL RIGHT WITH YOU, CAN I GO HOME EARLY--TO AVOID THE PROTESTERS?

GO AHEAD, PATTY. I'LL BE WORKING LATE. AS USUAL. NOTHING FOR ME AT HOME, ANYWAY.

CLOSE THE DOOR ON YOUR WAY OUT.





UH OH, LIGHTS ARE FLICKERING.

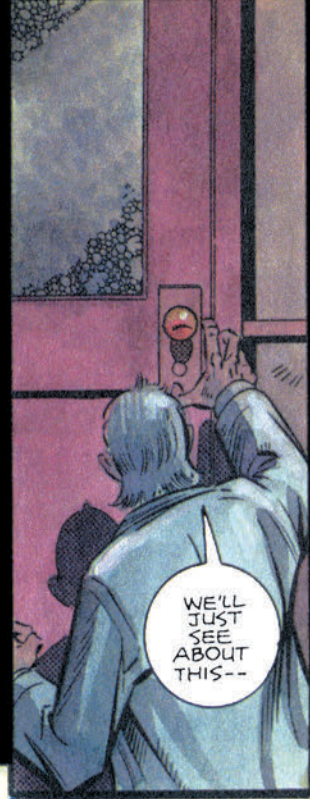


PATTY? PATTY, ARE YOU STILL OUT THERE?



OH, NO! HOURS OF COMPUTER CALCULATIONS --DOWN THE DRAIN!

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE BACKUP GENERATORS?



WE'LL JUST SEE ABOUT THIS--



YAAAAH!



WHAT'S GOING ON HERE? MY SKIN IS TINGLING...SOME-THING BUILDING IN THE AIR.

WHAT ARE THOSE VOICES? SCREAMS?



THAT LIGHT--THE WIND! THIS IS IMPOSSI-



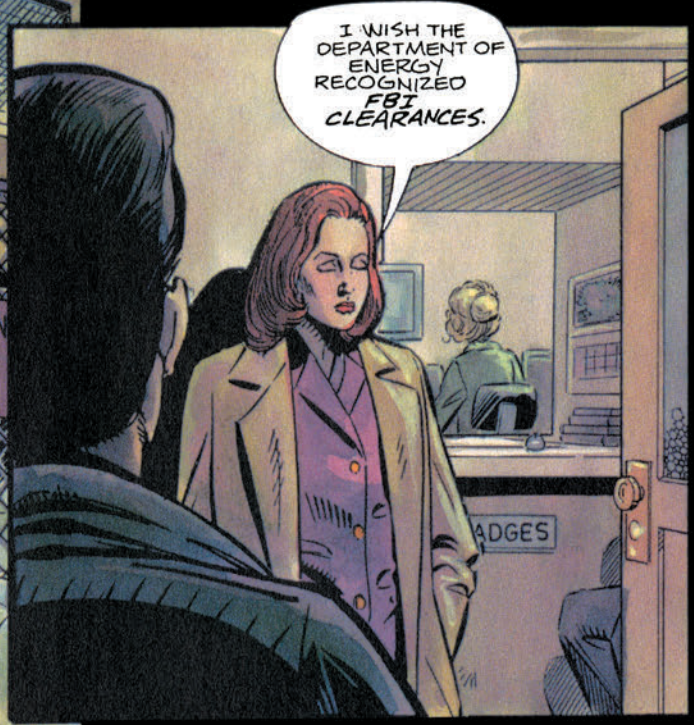
# C R O U N D

**ZERO**

**PART 1**



**TELLER NUCLEAR RESEARCH FACILITY  
TUESDAY  
10:13 A.M.**

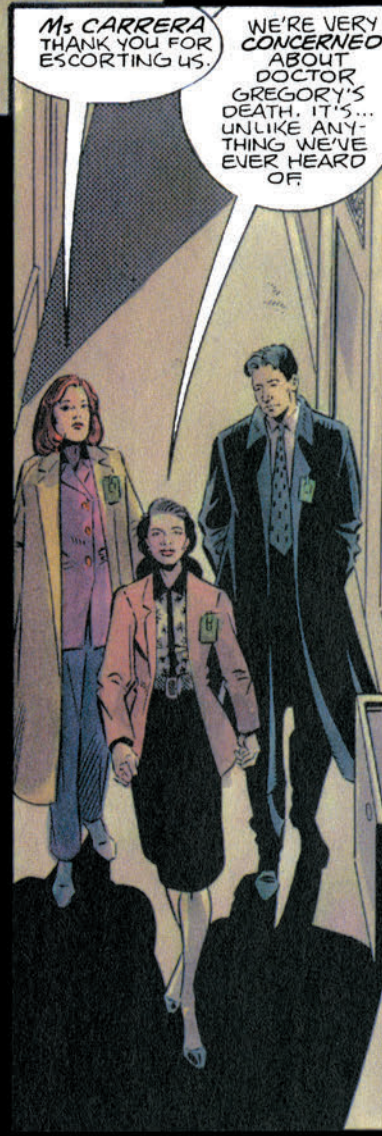


I WISH THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY RECOGNIZED **FBI CLEARANCES.**



A RADIATION DOSIMETER? IS THERE SOME CAUSE FOR CONCERN?

JUST A PRECAUTION, AGENT SCULLY. WE ARE A NUCLEAR RESEARCH FACILITY, YOU REALIZE.



*Ms CARRERA* THANK YOU FOR ESCORTING US.

WE'RE VERY CONCERNED ABOUT DOCTOR GREGORY'S DEATH. IT'S... UNLIKE ANYTHING WE'VE EVER HEARD OF.



WE, UH, SPECIALIZE IN THAT KIND OF THING. OF COURSE, THE FBI IS REQUIRED TO INVESTIGATE ANY DEATH ON FEDERAL PROPERTY.

TAKE A QUICK LOOK... BUT **PREPARE YOURSELVES.**